

The wide awake merchant and the wide awake buyer get together by the means of the newspapers.

Just as soon as our sidewalks are put in good condition and the houses are numbered Mexico will have free delivery.

So Banker Geo. Wilson, of Lexington, Mo., is not a grocer and wants to take his spite out on Hardin County girls. Poor Grover! Poor Harwin girls!

The Republicans who think that Maryland and Kentucky are going to vote for a Republican President would better brace themselves for a terrible disappointment.

One Montgomery City Standard, one Missouri's most conservative and substantial country paper, is twenty-eight years old. May it live long and prosper.

Mexico can have free delivery "when the houses are numbered and the sidewalks fixed." The sidewalks in Mexico are much better than in most towns that have free delivery.

An organization should be formed to give Mexico a fair again this year. The fair can be made a success, but the company should be formed now so as to secure good dates in the circuit.

The sympathy in this country for the Armenians is not backed up by any contributions to the extent some people thought it would be, and no date has yet been set for the departure of the Red Cross relief expedition.

SENATOR ALDRICH seems to occupy nearly the same position that Garfield did six months before the holding of the 1890 Republican convention; the friends of all the other candidates regard him as an available compromise man.

JOHN W. BULL is in danger of being called to account by Germany and France for working his usual grab game in South Africa. Still there are people foolish enough to believe that England really wants to quarrel with us. Not on your life, she doesn't.

It will be seen from the bank statements published in the Mexico Daily Ledger of Jan. 3, that there is now, and always has been, from three to ten times as much gold in the vaults of the Mexico banks as silver. This, in addition to the fact that the Mexico banks frequently ship out their gold.

The Republicans organized the Senate. They are now in control of both houses and are responsible for legislation, bond bill and all that they have power to control for legislation, and the country will properly hold them responsible for all that is done and all that is left undone.

THE SHEPHERD (Mo.) Democrat is just entering upon its 25th year. The Democrat is one of Missouri's most steadfast and conservative Democratic papers. It stands firmly and fearlessly for what it thinks is right and is receiving a liberal patronage from people who always appreciate a good newspaper.

CANADIANS are quite as certain that they can whip the United States as the Venezuelans are that they can knock the stuffing out of Great Britain, and with just about as much to go by. By the way, the article was written to let Venezuelans and Canada fight it out, while Uncle Sam and John Bull act as judges.

WHEW! What a change. Those who predicted that England would regard the appointment of that Venezuelan Boundary Commission as a step towards a declaration of war must have been shocked to learn that the English government proposes to aid that commission in every possible way in its work of trying to locate the proper boundary.

C. C. WORMAN approves of the LEADER's plan to furnish employment for tramps who come to Mexico. He has been putting tramps to work ever since he came to Mexico and finds it a good plan. Those who are not worthy want work and he gets it. He furnishes them. He says he finds a large number of them willing to work.

"It Depends on the Ticket." The Columbia Herald agrees with the LEADER and all other reputable Democratic papers that much depends on the kind of men placed on the Democratic ticket in Missouri during 1896. The Herald goes even further than the LEADER when it says:

The Democrats can win in Missouri only if they nominate the right kind of candidates. They will be knocked to kingdom come if they nominate the wrong kind.

Missourians, like voters elsewhere, have grown more independent. They no longer vote the party ticket without examination. The day of the yellow dog has passed. To win support a party must deserve support, not only because of its platform but because of its candidates.

To nominate a party hack, without English government proposals to aid that commission in every possible way in its work of trying to locate the proper boundary.

Debating societies throughout the country are arguing in reference to the Venezuelan matter, the Cuban war, the tariff and silver questions. A joint discussion was held at the Jones school house in the west end of the other night. The subject discussed was "Resolved, That it is for the best interests of the people to elect the Democratic ticket in 1896." Mason Green and D. M. Jennings ably argued the affirmative side, while F. M. Tinsley and R. H. Cawthron took the negative. All present took a great deal of interest in the discussion.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Roden, December 30, a son.

A WEEK OF PLEASURE.

Several Mexico Boys in Arkansas Eat, Drink and are Merry—They Also Take a Big Hunt.

Correspondence of the Ledger.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., Jan. 1.—Our party comprised Messrs. Henry Armstrong, Nelson Frank, X. O. Pindall, E. S. Pindall, F. J. Loughborough, T. M. Seawell and J. B. Barnhardt.

Leaving the railroad at Dumas the way lay for 20 miles through the woods and river bottom, which we traversed with the aid of a capacious farm wagon and four mules.

Traveling was slow on account of the recent heavy rains, but with Armstrong as driver, on the left blind mule, and X. O. Pindall, Nelson Frank and Jack Barnhardt as assistant postillions, our trip was extended until 7:30 Sunday evening, when we reached Belco Island, on the Arkansas river, and were extended a hearty welcome by Judge N. P. Plummer.

The only burning done during the ride from Dumas was by Nelson Frank, who made himself famous by shooting "cuffs" off of a "beer." The rest of us raised our field glasses and waited the effect.

Monday morning bright and early the hunters took the field, and that evening we feasted sumptuously on the "bag," which consisted of wild duck and quail.

Here followed a serenade party to the neighboring steamboat landing, "Red Fork," where we were welcomed by the sun's rays warmed our spirits and gladdened our hearts till we gave vent to the Little Rock foot ball yell, "Dicky, Dicky Dook," which made the woods re-echo until the natives might well have imagined that the British had landed at the mouth of the Arkansas and were marching upon the capital.

We left Belco Lake after breakfast and started for Pendleton, where we were entertained at dinner by Mr. W. M. Quilling and his estimable family. On the way a dinner it was. Ye gods and little fishes, how we did fall! I feared for the immediate life of several members of our party, but as the attack was justifiable they shall be named. Under the roof of our most hospitable host our party spent Wednesday, Thursday and part of Friday and Saturday, serenading, dancing, hunting, eating and drinking, without a care in the world, out in the open, breathing none of us sleep like lambs at the foot of the bed.

Sleep? Did anyone say sleep? Well I think not much. The fact was, you see, we were too busy to sleep and there was not one watch in the party that had figures enough on it. We could have used up four or five more days of our vacation, but on Friday noon we were again on our way to Red Fork, for we had been invited to partake of supper with Dr. Peoples and his family. Upon arriving within a quarter of a mile of the residence we found that the high water had cut us off, so we had to leave our wagon and take only our instruments, which by this time had become indispensable, we mounded the high levee and walk around, high and dry, for about a mile.

Words cannot describe our reception here and at other places during our stay. Our boys appreciated all that was done for them, not only by words, but also by acts. When the occasion was a meal they sat down and did it up in a masterly style; when it was a dance, no music could tire them, and so on without end.

By night we got ready to leave, but on going out into the front yard we found that the water had crept upon us, until now there was about three feet of water between us and the levee. However, horses were brought into service and two at a time would ride over to the levee, while one man would take back the horse for another passenger.

Here is where I come to an important part of my narrative. We "aloped" at Belco Island Friday night, or rather Saturday morning.

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JOKE ON "JAP."

The "Woman" Who Has Given Sheriff J. T. Stephens So Much Trouble Is a Man—Identified by Detective as Being Generally Disreputable.

"Inez Hoyt," who has been in jail in Mexico since the latter part of October, charged with grand larceny, is a man. The officers in St. Louis, hearing that there was a "woman" in jail in Mexico charged with robbery, thought perhaps she might be implicated in the Goldman murder in St. Louis. A detective was sent up to investigate. As soon as he saw "Inez" he reported that she, or rather he, was Frank Smith, alias Elfin Smith, alias several other names of both sexes. During the stay of "Miss Inez" in jail Sheriff Stephens has had a great deal of trouble. She seemed to be very dainty about her eating and a separate apartment of course, had to be looked after for her. The woman has now been put into men's clothing and is in the cells with the rest of the men. There seems to be quite a number of parties who have been accused of flitting with "Miss Inez" through the jail windows. There is no question but that the "woman" is a penitentiary sentence. The general opinion seems to be that he is wanted for some greater crime than that of burglary and that he assumed this disguise to escape. He makes a very fine female impersonator, at least so Sheriff Stephens and his assistants say. Some of the other prisoners who were desperately in love with "Inez" are now kicking themselves.

From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Sheriff Stephens, of Mexico, Mo., visited St. Louis Tuesday and informed Chief Harrigan that he had a woman under arrest in St. Louis. He thought, from conversations he had with her, was wanted in St. Louis on a serious charge. As she could not be identified from the description given by the Sheriff, Detective Gocking was sent to Mexico the same evening to find out who and what the prisoner was.

"Where is she?" said Gocking. "Right in line," said Stephens, and he ushered the detective into an apartment occupied by a fair-faced young person, attired in a silk dress, diamond ear-rings, handsome finger rings and other appurtenances of a woman of fashion.

The detective grinned and said: "Hello, Effie!" "How do you do, Gocking?" responded the prisoner.

"I rather guess I do," said the detective. Then he addressed the prisoner with: "Well, Effie, old boy, how are you?" "Oh, pretty well," replied the last-named individual, with a cough and a look that said she was not well.

Then Gocking told the bewildered Sheriff aside and told him that his mysterious prisoner was of the male persuasion and that he was no other than the notorious Frank, alias "Elfin" Smith, whose escapades in St. Louis a few months ago gained him considerable notoriety.

The Sheriff at first refused to believe the truth of the detective's statement, but the truth was eventually forced upon him. During the prisoner's incarceration he had never given the least indication that he was a man. He will be prosecuted in Mexico.

The Globe-Democrat says: Frank Smith, after disappearing from this city a few months ago, has turned up in Mexico, Mo., where, according to a telegram, he practiced the same deception which he used in St. Louis. He is now in the hands of the law. Smith has the appearance of a girl. His features, voice, manners and general bearing are that of a woman. In October last he was arrested in Mexico for robbery and gave the name of Miss Inez Hoyt. When a Chief of Police was called at the Mexico jail last Wednesday, a man recognized "Miss Hoyt" as Frank Smith. In August, 1893, Smith was arrested while dressed in female attire, charged with abducting men from the street. When arraigned in the Police Court he was dressed as usual, and appeared to be a girl. Upon promising to go to the House of the Good Shepherd the fine was not imposed. Smith, tiring of convent life, disclosed the deception he had been practicing and was released. He was arrested again and sent to the workhouse for three months, and at length was compelled to leave the city.

Rheumatism Rins Riot. When there is lactic acid in the blood. Liniments and lotions will be of no permanent benefit. A cure can be accomplished only by neutralizing this acid and for this purpose Hood's Sarsaparilla is the best medicine because Hood's Sarsaparilla is the only true blood purifier prominently in the public eye.

Hood's Pills become the favorite cathartic with everyone who tries them. 25c.

Those who are troubled with rheumatism should try a few applications of Chamberlain's Pain Balm, rubbing the parts vigorously at each application. If it does not bring relief dampen a piece of flannel with Pain Balm and bind it on over the seat of pain and prompt relief will surely follow. For sale by C. A. Buckner, druggist.

Otis Purdy is ready for leap year. He has opened a book and will record all offers of marriage and on January 1, 1897, he will close his book and marry the girl who has the most money.

De Witt's Little Early Risers for biliousness, indigestion, constipation. A small pill, a prompt cure. Write for a free trial.

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Buried in the Debris.

EXPLODING FIREWORKS WRECK TWO ST. LOUIS BUILDINGS.

Employees Caught in the Ruins and Unable to Escape—Flames Add Horror to the Disaster and Impede Rescue.

St. Louis, Jan. 2.—At 12:45 a terrific explosion occurred at 311 North Second street, shattering the Lindsay building and burying many persons in the ruins.

The structure was occupied by the Anchor Peanut company and the H. B. Grubb Commission company, agents for the Excelsior Fireworks company. Fireworks in the rear of H. B. Grubb's Commission company had exploded with awful force. The building was torn asunder. The concussion shook every structure in the block, and every pane of glass in the vicinity was shattered. The walls of Levison & Blythe, the building adjoining, were crushed in, pinning three persons down to their death and injuring at least 20 others.

A moment after the explosion men and women rushed into the street with the blood streaming from numerous cuts on their faces and hands. The exploding gunpowder scattered fire in all directions and hungry flames were quick ministers in the work of death and destruction.

FLAMES FOLLOW THREE EXPLOSIONS. The fire started in the first floor of the building 311 North Second street, occupied by the H. B. Grubb Commission company, upstairs, and the second and third floors were occupied by the Anchor Peanut company. A quantity of fireworks was stored in the rear. The explosions, three in number, followed in rapid succession. The concussion rent the partition wall to the south into the Levison & Blythe Co. building, where the Excelsior Fire and Iron Manufacturing company, 313 North Second street on the north.

When the department arrived the buildings occupied by the Grubb Commission company, the Levison & Blythe Stationery company and the Excelsior Wire company were in flames. Chief Swingle turned the fire to the third alarm and twenty streams were soon playing on the burning buildings. Something worse than flames had to be encountered by the firemen. They were caught by the falling walls. There were probabilities that at least a dozen men were in the burning buildings.

The firemen got the flames under control and began the work of taking out the uninjured and imprisoned in the debris.

In the buildings occupied by the Excelsior Wire company were fifteen men, and so far but one, Fireman A. S. Whitlock, is accounted for. The ruins are still so hot that no search can be made for the missing. There is little hope that they will be taken out alive. The property loss will not reach over \$150,000.

FUNNY THINGS WE SEE. The bicycle girl making her first mount.

Girls taking their first lesson in skating on the railroad pond.

The actor who says "I will remain silent forever" and then sits down on a tack.

The girl who wears an A shoe on a D foot. (This is funnier to us than to the girl.)

Women who persist in wearing new furs when the thermometer persists in mounting.

The man who has to take care of the twins on the train while his wife reads the latest novel.

The young man who has told "her" that she should know all his secrets, burning his old letters a few days before the wedding.

The young man who escorts a lady friend to church and on hunting for a piece of money for the collection pulls out a brass button.

The young person who has been told she has an expressive face forevermore contorting and distorting it to make it more expressive.

A crowd of ladies making a centre rush for the bargain counter to buy a bottle of perfume to-day for 49 cents that was 50 cents yesterday.

The man who is going to be a candidate for office at the coming city election shaking hands with every Tom, Dick and Harry he meets.

The man who says the streets around the square are good enough wading in mud up to his knees or get over his shoe tops in order to get to the Court House.

The girl who parades down the aisle at the theatre half an hour after the performance has commenced and suddenly discovers that there is one more curl paper to be removed.

Announcement. A few days before the beginning of the year we accepted the agency of the Accident Department of the Elina Life Insurance Company. If you are thinking of taking accident insurance call on us and we will take pleasure in explaining the numerous policies written by the largest and best accident insurance company in the United States. GUTHRIE & GUTHRIE, Agents, Mexico, Mo.

We accept as a good one when Col. Rob Ingersoll speaks to empty benches as in his late tour of the Southwestern part of Missouri. It is very conclusive evidence that the people are disgusted with his blasphemy and that they are unwilling to hear the religion of their fathers and mothers ridiculed when they decline to go to a hall to hear so speak to empty benches as in his late tour of the Southwestern part of Missouri. It is very conclusive evidence that the people are disgusted with his blasphemy and that they are unwilling to hear the religion of their fathers and mothers ridiculed when they decline to go to a hall to hear so speak to empty benches as in his late tour of the Southwestern part of Missouri. 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